

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9215

INFO AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI UNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ATHENS 4508

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GR

SUBJECT: CARAMANLIS ASSURES AHEPA LEASERS THAT AMERICANS  
ALWAYS WELCOME IN GREECE

1. LEADERS OF THE AMERICAN HELLENIC EDUCATIONAL AND PROGRESSIVE ASSOCIATION (AHEPA) CALLED ON PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS ON JUNE 17. DURING THE DISCUSSION THE AHEPA LEADERS INFORMED THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE IMPRESSION EXISTING IN THE UNITED STATES THAT THERE IS ANTI-AMERICAN FEELING IN GREECE. THEY EXPLAINED THAT THIS IMPRESSION IMPEDES THE REALIZATION OF INVESTMENTS IN GREECE, THE ARRIVAL OF TOURISTS, ETC.

2. IN REPLY, ACCORDING TO AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT, THE PRIME MINISTER EMPHASIZED THAT THIS IMPRESSION IS GROUNDLESS. CARAMANLIS ADDED THAT THE GREEK PEOPLE NOT ONLY FEEL NO HOSTILITY BUT INSTEAD HAVE FRIENDLY FEELINGS TOWARD THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WHO, IN THE PAST AS WELL AS NOW, HAVE SHOWN IN MANY WAYS - THROUGH CONGRESS, THE PRESS, ETC. - THEIR SUPPORT FOR GREECE. HE CONTINUED THAT THESE FRIENDLY FEELINGS SHOULD NOT BE RELATED TO THE BITTERNESS WHICH THE GREEK PEOPLE MAY HAVE EXPERIENCED AS A RESULT OF A PARTICULAR  
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POLICY OF THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT. THE PRIME MINISTER

CONCLUDED WITH THE ASSURANCE THAT AMERICANS ARE ALWAYS  
WELCOME IN GREECE.

3.

3. FOLLOWING THEIR MEETING WITH THE PREMIER, THE  
AHEPA LEADERS - SUPREME PRESIDENT CHIRGOTIS,  
SUPREME VICE PRESIDENT DERZIS AND CHAIRMAN OF THE  
FRIENDS OF GREECE COMMITTEE DOURIS - MET WITH LOCAL  
PRESS REPRESENTATIVES. THEY INDICATED THAT THEY HAD  
INVITED THE PRIME MINISTER TO VISIT THE U.S. AS THE  
GUEST OF AHEPA. HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF THE PRESSURE OF  
BUSINESS, THE PRIME MINISTER WAS UNABLE TO ACCEPT THE  
INVITATION AT THIS TIME. ANOTHER POINT THEY MADE TO  
THE PRESS WAS THAT AHEPA WOULD CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS  
IN SUPPORT OF THE GREEK CAUSE, AGAINST AID TO TURKEY  
AND FOR A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT IN CYPRUS.

5. CHIRGOTIS MENTIONED THAT THE AHEPA CONVENTION IN CINCINNATI  
IN AUGUST WOULD DISCUSS THE FEASIBILITY OF FLOATING  
"GREEK BONDS" IN THE U.S TO HELP RAISE UP TO  
\$200 MILLION TO ASSIST THE GREEK GOVERNMENT IN ITS  
ECONOMIC EFFORTS FOLLOWING THE JUNTA PERIOD. AHEPA  
LEADERS ALSO NOTED THEIR CONVENTION WILL CONSIDER  
PLANS TO IMPROVE THE AHEPA WING OF EVANGELISMOS  
HOSPITAL IN ATHENS BY CONSTRUCTING AN OPEN-HEART SURGERY  
THEATER THERE.

5. COMMENT: WITH REFERENCE TO CHIRGOTIS' COMMENTS ABOVE  
REGARDING "GREEK BONDS," WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE SUBJECT  
CAME UP AT THE PRIME MINISTER'S INITIATIVE DURING HIS  
MEETING WITH THE AHEPA LEADERS. IN A SUBSEQUENT MEETING  
WITH PAPALIGOURAS AND BANK OF GREECE OFFICIALS, WE ARE  
TOLD THE MINISTER OF COORDINATION POINTED OUT TO THE  
AHEPANS THE VARIOUS DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED IN SUCHAN  
IDEA, WHICH HAS COME UP BEFORE. NEVERTHELESS, IT IS OUR  
UNDERSTANDING THAT A HIGH LEVEL GREEK GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL  
WILL BE GOING TO THE US SHORTLY TO EXPLORE THE MATTER WITH  
AHEPA IN ADVANCE OF ITS CONVENTION.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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